

god at home, or that foreigners coming to this country, should miss the absence of indulgences to them habitual. *Abroad, every thing is free and open; in England every place is closed, and admittance only to be obtained by paying.* A better system and a more liberal policy are about to commence; but when it shall have been carried into practice, where are our pictures, statues, halls, museums? what is there, worth seeing, or calculated to

improve the national taste? Those who have visited Versailles, the Louvre, Munich, Dresden, Berlin, and the Vatican, must be silent.

We entreat Sir Robert Peel to devise some means by which the latent genius of his countrymen may be fostered and rewarded; for it must ever be a matter of primary importance to draw more closely the connection which exists between the Fine Arts and manufactures.—*British Queen.*



EARLY BUILT COTTAGE NEAR HAMMERSMITH.



OLD ALMSHOUSES, HAMMERSMITH.

### OLD ENGLISH HOUSES.

It is seldom that we witness such good specimens of the domestic architecture of England at an early period as are to be found even within a very short distance of London. Mr. Faulkner, in his history of Hammersmith, has traced with much accuracy the progress of the style of building. He has commenced in the neighbourhood of greens with these euphonious names:

Between Gaggie-goose green and Starch green, the footway runs in a winding direction, and is elevated several feet above the carriage road, which has been evidently, in former ages, a water-course impassable to foot passengers. The ancient stream still runs by the roadside, pursuing its devious course towards the Thames.

At the northern extremity of this elevated causeway stands an isolated cottage, a venerable specimen of the domestic architecture of the sixteenth century. It has, however, lately been plastered, but previous to that barbarous renovation, it formed, with its angular chimneys, casement windows, and wattled walls, a very picturesque object when seen from the road side.

It is interesting to trace the various changes that our domestic architecture has undergone during a succession of ages. We are told by Cæsar, that the habitations of the Britons were built of the frailest materials, and the residence of the most powerful chieftain differed only in size from the cabin of the meanest of his tribe. The Romans introduced the use of stone and brick, and numerous magnificent edifices were raised by them and the Romanized Britons during their occupation of this island. In the Saxon and Norman period, the churches and castles were built with stone, but the dwellings of the people were constructed with a mixture of clay and timber, a practice which continued to prevail till the commencement of the seventeenth century.

The following letter from the celebrated Erasmus to Dr. Francis, physician to Cardinal Wolsey, gives a vivid description of the interior of common dwellings in the reign of Henry VIII.:

"I often wonder, and not without concern, whence it comes to pass that England for so many years hath been continually afflicted with pestilence, and above all with sweating sickness, which seems in a manner peculiar to that country. We read of a city which was delivered from a plague of long continuance by altering the buildings according to the advice of a certain philosopher. I am much mistaken if England by the same method might not find a cure. First of all, they are totally regardless concerning the aspect of their doors and windows; to the east, north, and south. Then they build their chambers so that they admit not a thorough air, which yet, in Galen's opinion, is very necessary. They glaze a great part of the sides with small panes, designed to admit the light and exclude the wind; but these windows are full of chinks, through which enters a percolated air, which, stagnating in the room, is more noxious than the wind. As to the floors, they are usually made of clay, covered with rushes that grow in fens, which are so slightly removed now and then, that the lower part remains for twenty years together, and in it a collection of spittle, beer, scraps, and other filth; thence, upon change of weather, a vapour is exhaled very pernicious, in my opinion, to the human body. I am persuaded that the island would be far more healthy if the use of these rushes were quite laid aside, and the chambers so built as to let in the air on two or three sides, with such glass windows as might be either thrown quite open or kept quite shut, without small crannies to let in the wind; for as it is useful sometimes to admit of the air, so it is sometimes to exclude it."—*Polytechnic Review.*

### THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF ARTS, MANUFACTURES, AND COMMERCE.—DISTRIBUTION OF THE PRIZES BY PRINCE ALBERT.

On Monday, there was a numerous and splendid assemblage at the chambers of this Society, in the Adelphi, to witness the distribution of the prizes.

At half-past twelve o'clock his Royal Highness arrived, accompanied by the Duke of Sutherland and the Marquis of Northampton, and immediately took the chair. We also noticed the Earl of Dartmouth, Sir Thomas Dyke Ackland, Sir Thomas Baring, Professor Faraday, W. Hughes Hughes, Esq., Admiral Sykes, Dr. Donville, Mr. Emsley, and many scientific gentlemen.

The chief object of the society is to promote the arts, manufactures, and commerce of this kingdom, by giving honorary or pecuniary rewards, as may be best adapted to the case, for the communication to the society, and through the society to the public, of all such useful inventions, discoveries, and improvements as tend to that purpose; and, in pursuance of this plan, it was stated that the society had already expended upwards of 100,000*l.*, derived from voluntary subscriptions and legacies.

His Royal Highness, on reaching the chair, was loudly applauded, and he observed—"In proceeding to the business of this day, I wish to express my satisfaction for the first time in opening the business of a society which has proved so useful in promoting the arts and sciences generally"—(cheers).

F. Whishaw, Esq., the secretary, then observed that it was a peculiarly gratifying task to address them on the occasion of the fifty-sixth annual distribution of the honorary and pecuniary rewards of the society, which had been awarded during the present session. His Royal Highness Prince Albert had been graciously pleased to accept the office of president, vacant by the lamented death of his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, and had also consented to grace the meeting with his august presence on this highly-interesting occasion—(applause). The secretary proceeded to state that Thomas Webster, John Bethell, Charles Holtzapffel, Edward Speer Browne, Philip Wills, and Henry Roberts had, with great perseverance, devoted much of their valuable time in successful endeavours to revive the expiring embers of this noble institution, and once more it was becoming a favourite institution with the public, of which no stronger proof could be afforded than the fact that 125 members had been elected during the present session, among whom were his Grace the Duke of Norfolk, whose noble ancestor presided so efficiently over this society for twenty-one years; also the Right Hon. the Earl of Clarendon, whose love of literature and science rendered him a peculiarly valuable acquisition to the society, and a bright ornament of the highly cultivated age in which we live—(cheers). The secretary then described the origin and progress of the society, which he stated had awarded medals to the Dukes of Bedford and Beaufort, the Earls of Winterton, Upper Ossory, and Mansfield, the Bishop of Llandaff, and John Christian Curwen, Esq., of Workington Hall, who had received several medals for improvements in agriculture; and who, it was well worthy of being recorded, had stated at a public meeting that but for this society he should never have been a farmer—(hear, hear). Among the eminent artists who at various times had received rewards from this society were Sir Thomas Lawrence, Nollekens, Bacon, Flaxman, Sir William Ross, Edm. Landseer, Finden, and Wyon. At the conclusion of Mr. Whishaw's address he was loudly applauded.

Benjamin Rutch, Esq., said he had been deputed by the vice-president to explain in a laconic way the various models of the inventions for which prizes had been awarded. The first prize was for an improved window-sash, which would enable domestic servants to turn the windows easily, and prevent the necessity of getting outside the house in order to clean them. Many accidents, which they must have all deplored, had occurred to female servants from window cleaning, and he hoped in awarding a prize for this invention, the committee had done much by rewarding humanity in preventing loss of life in future—(hear, hear). The hon. gentlemen then proceeded to explain this and the other models, in all of